A Christmas Activities eBook

Thank you for downloading my very first eBook by Learning 4 kids.

The purpose of this eBook is to provide simple, easy, low cost activities to entertain the kids with this festive season. I hope it brings you and your children many happy playtimes and memories.

Thank you for supporting Learning 4 kids!

Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas! ☺

Janice

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This eBook was released last year in 2011 when Learning4 Kids was still very new and since then we have shared more Christmas crafts and activities on the blog. If you would like to see more click on the hyperlink: List of Christmas Activities

I hope you enjoy our Fun Christmas Activities eBook!

***Please note**: Links have been set up on this eBook for easier navigation. Click on the activity on the contents page to view it.*

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Special thanks to:

My beautiful family – I love and cherish you all so much. Thank you for your love and patience with me on my journey to fulfil my dreams.

Thank you to each and every one of my readers and followers who inspire me and encourage me to keep sharing our activities and play ideas. I sincerely appreciate each and every comment, email, likes and shares. Thank you!

Special thanks to all our sponsors and companies I have worked with over the last 12 months. I sincerely appreciate your support; it has been a pleasure to be able to work with you.

Extra special thanks to my beautiful daughters who happily and lovingly embrace all my activities. You inspire me to learn more and teach me so much every day. xxx

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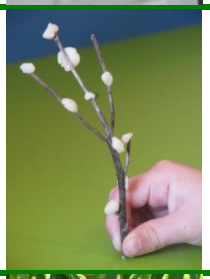
	Handy Christmas Tree	8		Twiggy Play Dough Snow Tree	17
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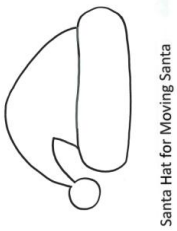
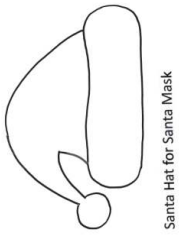
	Moving Santa Hat Template	31		Santa Hat Template Paper Plate Mask	35
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Christmas Play Dough

You will need:

1 cup flour
1 table spoon oil
1 cup water
½ cup salt
2 teaspoons of cream of tartar
2 teaspoons of gold glitter

How to make:

1. Mix all ingredients together in a saucepan with a whisk to remove the lumps.
2. Cook over low heat stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will thicken and become a big blob.
3. Take play dough off the heat and turn out onto the bench.
4. Knead until play dough is smooth.

Tips & Ideas:

- To minimise the transfer of glitter onto hands and play area, add the glitter during cooking rather than kneading the glitter in after cooking.

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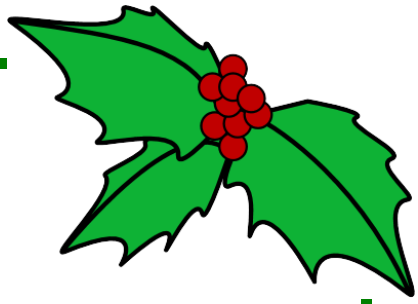

Pompom Christmas Trees

You will need:

Different size pompoms, large, medium, small and extra small
Milk bottle tops
Kids PVA craft glue

How to make:

1. Place a small blob of glue in the bottom of a bottle top and firmly press a large pompom on top.
2. Place a small amount of glue on top of the large pompom and attach a medium size pompom on top. Repeat this, by stacking the pompoms from largest to smallest creating a shape of a tree.
3. Set aside and allow drying.

Tips & Ideas:

- The Pompom Christmas Trees are a cute decoration for the kid's bedrooms or small gift.

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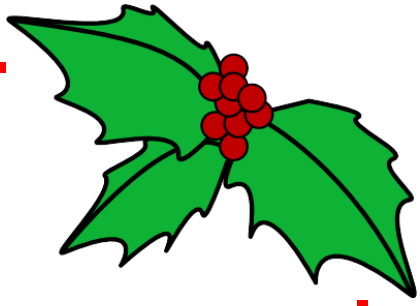
Christmas Gingerbread Man Cookies



You will need:

Green and red smarties to decorate
Gingerbread cookie cutter
125g softened butter
½ cup brown sugar
½ cup golden syrup
1 egg, separated
2 ½ cups plain flour
1 tbs. ground ginger
1 tsp. mixed spice
1 tsp. bicarbonate of soda

How to make:

1. Beat butter and sugar in a bowl until pale and creamy. Add golden syrup and egg yolk and beat until combined.
2. Stir in the flour, ginger, mixed spice and bicarbonate of soda. Turn onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth. Cover with plastic wrap and allow to rest in the fridge for 15 minutes.
3. Place the dough between 2 sheets of baking paper and roll out until about 4mm thick. Cut our gingerbread man shapes with cookie cutter and place onto baking trays. Repeat with any excess dough.
4. Bake in oven for 10 minutes or until brown.
5. Remove from oven and transfer to a cooling rack.
6. Decorate with Smarties and draw on gingerbread face, arms and legs with a skewer or blunt knife.

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Handy Christmas Tree

Your will need:

Green & yellow Paint
Paint brush
A3 coloured card
Glue stick
Large sheet white paper

How to make:

1. With the paint brush, apply green paint to an open hand.
2. Gently press hand onto the white paper. Repeat this until there are a sufficient number of green hand prints.
3. Wash and dry hands.
4. Apply yellow paint to the hands using a paint brush and press gently onto the paper.
5. When hand prints are dry, cut them out and position them into the shape of a tree.
6. When happy with the arrangement, glue onto the coloured card.

Tips & Ideas:

- There are 18 green painted hand prints and 2 yellow displayed in the photo.
- Using the paint brush to apply the paint to the hands gives a more even coat when pressed onto the paper. There is no excess paint and less mess!

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Play Dough Snowman

You will need:

1 blob of Christmas Play Dough
2 twigs
Orange & green pipe cleaners cut to size
Coloured buttons
Pompoms & patty pans
Crepe paper streamers
2 wiggly eyes

How to make:

1. Roll and join one large and small ball of Christmas Play Dough together.
2. Press the twigs for arms into the play dough and manipulate the pipe cleaner to form a smiling mouth shape.
3. Press the pipe cleaners for the nose and mouth into the play dough.
4. Attached the two wiggly eyes, patty pan for the hat and press the buttons down the front of the play dough.
5. Wrap a strip of crepe paper streamer around the join of the two balls of play dough and gently tie a knot.

Tips & Ideas:

- This is only one example of what you could do to create your very own play dough snowman. The ideas and crafts you could use are endless.

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Sponge Painting Christmas Gift Paper

You will need:

Sponges
Christmas shapes sponge template, page 30
White sheet of paper
Red and green paint

How to make:

1. Print off Christmas Shapes Sponge Template page 30 and cut out shapes.
2. Trace around the Christmas shapes onto the sponges and cut them out.
3. Place a small amount of paint onto a clean meat tray and place the cut out Christmas sponges on top.
4. Gently press the paint covered sponges onto the paper and repeat until the sheet of paper is covered.
5. Allow to dry.
6. Wrap Christmas gifts with painted paper and add your favourite coloured ribbon to add that special touch.

Tips & Ideas:

- You can change the colours for a different theme.
- Use any remaining paper for making Homemade Christmas Crackers, see page 21.

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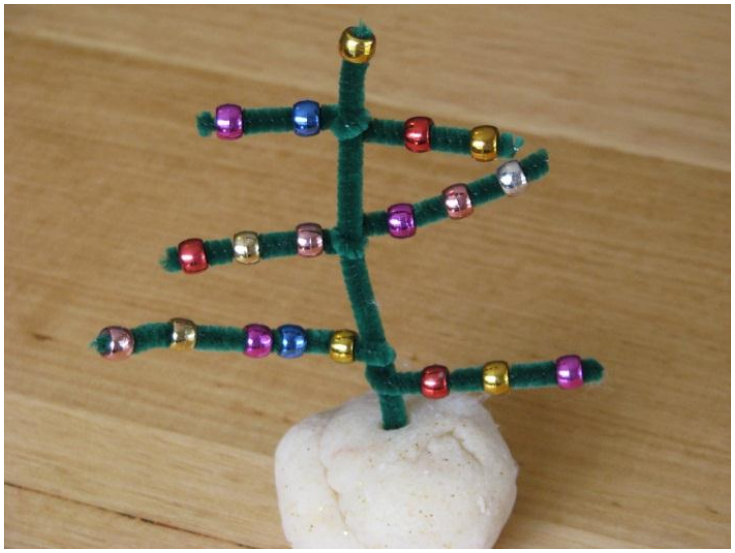
Pipe Cleaner & Bead Christmas Tree



You will need

Two green pipe cleaners
Assorted coloured hollow beads for threading
Blob of Christmas Play Dough page 5

How to make:

1. Cut pipe cleaners into four lengths. 2 long, 1 medium and 1 small.
2. Make a tree trunk with 1 long pipe cleaner pressed into a large blob of Christmas Play Dough.
3. Twist another long pipe cleaner around the bottom end of the trunk, followed by the medium in the centre and the smaller length towards the top of the trunk.
4. Arrange all pipe cleaners to form the shape of the tree as desired.
5. Thread coloured beads onto the pipe cleaners to decorate the tree.

Tips & Ideas:

- The play dough will dry up over a few days and harden, making the pipe cleaner more stable.

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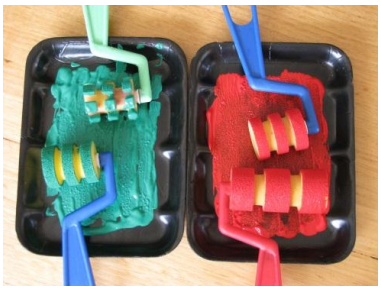
Christmas Paper Chains

You will need:

Green and red paint
White sheets of paper
Sponge paint rollers
Scissors
Sticky Tape



How to make:

1. Prepare paper and paint in trays with sponge rollers.
2. Roll paint onto paper creating red and green patterns.
3. Allow the paint to dry.
4. Cut paper into strips approximately 4.5cm wide and 25cm long.

Tips & Ideas:

- Paper chains make for a great homemade decoration for the Christmas tree or around the house.
- Red and green are known for their Christmas colours but you can create any colour theme with these paper chains. You may like to try purple and silver or green and gold.

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Plastic Cup Christmas Tree

You will need:

1 large disposable plastic cup
Green paint
2 Paint brushes, 1 for glue and 1 for paint
Kids PVA craft glue
Assortment of craft materials: pipe cleaners
Metallic confetti
Pompoms

How to make:

1. Paint the plastic cup with green paint all over. For more depth in colour and better paint coverage, apply a second coat.
2. Apply a small amount of glue onto the plastic cup to attach craft decorations as desired. For the photo above, a large yellow pompom has been used for the star; you may like to use a cut out star on yellow paper.

Tips & Ideas:

- Placing your hand inside the cup while painting makes it so much easier to get better paint coverage and avoid getting paint onto the hands.
- Use a recycled yoghurt container for the glue and paint pot, that way you can throw them away when finished and have no washing up.

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Short Bread Christmas Cookies

You will need:

300g softened butter
1 cup icing sugar
3 cups plain flour
Baking paper
Christmas cookie cutters

How to make:

1. Mix butter and icing sugar together with an electric mixer.
2. Gradually add flour and mix well.
3. Place baking paper onto bench top and knead mixture until smooth.
4. Place in the fridge to rest for 15 minutes.
5. Roll out flat onto the bench with a rolling pin.
6. Press Christmas shape cookie cutters into the dough.
7. Bake at 180 degrees for 15 minutes or until golden brown.

Tips & Ideas:

- Placing the mixture into the fridge for 15 minutes helps stop the mixture sticking to the rolling pin and gives a clean finish with the cookie cutters.

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Christmas Collage Place Mats

You will need:

Christmas wrapping paper
White sheet of paper or card
Glue stick
Scissors
Clear contact or laminating sheets

How to make:

1. Tear Christmas paper up into small squares and shapes.
2. Apply glue to the paper and attach torn Christmas wrap overlapping to ensure that the entire sheet of paper is covered.
3. When the glue is dry, cut along the edges to remove any overhang of Christmas paper on the collage.
4. Laminate the collage or cover it with contact.

Tips & Ideas:

- These placemats make a great place to put Santa's cup of milk and cookie or to decorate the table for Christmas day.
- Tearing the paper gives a more effective pattern to the collage than cutting.
- The placemats can be decorated with any theme colour.

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Making Fluffy Snow

You will need:

1 cup of Soap Flakes
3 cups warm water
Large mixing bowl
Large container or tray
Electric beater

How to make:

1. Sit a large mixing bowl on top of a tray or container to catch the over flow of fluffy snow when mixing.
2. Add soap flakes and warm water into large mixing bowl.
3. Mix with an electric beater until there is no longer any water and the mixture is thick.

Tips & Ideas:

- The fluffy snow is a thick mixture that is great for putting on glass windows and doors for drawing pictures with your finger.
- Sprinkle the fluffy snow around your back yard to create a winter wonderland.
- You can purchase soap flakes at your local supermarket in the washing powder section.

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Twiggy Play Dough Snow Tree

You will need:

Christmas Play Dough, see page 5
Small twigs or branches

How to make:

1. Follow directions on page 5 to make Christmas Play Dough.
2. Collect a small amount of twigs and small branches from the garden.
3. Roll a small ball of play dough and stand the twig or small branch into the centre of it.
4. Roll the Christmas play dough into small balls and randomly attach them to the branches of the twig.

Tips and Ideas:

- You could make a garden of twiggy snow trees by rolling some play dough flat and sticking the twigs into the play dough to stand them up tall.
- Take the kids for a walk to collect up small branches and twigs.

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Christmas Star Decoration

You will need:

6 yellow pop sticks
Kids PVA craft glue
Ribbon
Metallic Confetti

How to make:

1. Arrange the pop sticks to form a star shape.
2. Glue the adjoining parts of the pop sticks together. This part can be very fiddly and may take a few tries.
3. Allow the glue to dry.
4. Apply small amounts of glue onto the areas of the Christmas star for the confetti decorations.
5. Once the glue has dried, tie a small ribbon around one of the triangles of the star.

Tips & Ideas:

- The Christmas star is a great decoration for the Christmas tree.
- PVA glue is the best adhesive for gluing wood together. Once it has dried it adds strength to the Christmas Star.

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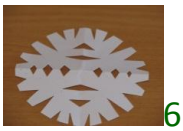
Cellophane Window Snow Flake

You will need:

1 sheet white paper
Small sheet green cellophane
Round Object to trace around
Scissors
Glue Stick

How to make :

1. 2. 3. 4. 5.  6.

1. Trace around a round object to make a circle. Cut the circle out.
2. Fold circle in half.
3. Fold the half circle in half again, quarters.
4. Cut small triangles around the outside of the quarter circle.
5. Open out flat.
6. Glue onto a sheet of cellophane and cut off excess cellophane.

Tips & Ideas:

- These are a great Christmas window decoration.

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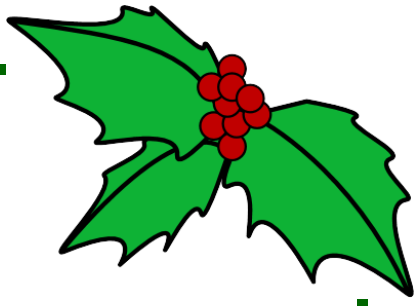
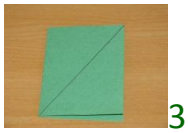
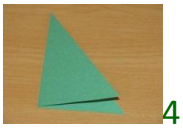
Cellophane Window Christmas Tree



You will need?

1 sheet green rectangular shape paper
Small sheet red cellophane
Scissors
Glue stick

How to make:

1. 2.  3.  4. 5. 6.

1. Fold a rectangular shaped paper in half.
2. Rule a line from corner to corner.
3. Cut along the line with the folded spine still intact.
4. Cut small triangles into the sides of the paper.
5. Open to discover the shape of a tree.
6. Glue onto a piece of cellophane and cut off any excess cellophane.

Tips & Ideas:

- These look fabulous on windows with the sun shining through.

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Homemade Christmas Crackers

You will need:

Cardboard paper towel roll
Christmas shapes sponge paintings left over from gift wrap page 9
Sticky tape
Coloured Christmas ribbon

How to make:

1. Cut the left over painted Christmas paper to size to fit the cardboard roll. Allowing enough paper at the ends to twist closed later.
2. Roll and wrap it around the paper roll leaving the ends open. Place sticky tape at the centre to hold the paper together.
3. Twist each end and fasten with sticky tape.
4. Tie on some ribbon for decoration to each twisted end.

Tips & Ideas:

- You can place some yummy surprises, colouring in pictures with a crayon or jokes inside the Christmas cracker.
- You could alternatively use commercial Christmas gift wrap instead of the Christmas sponge paintings paper.
- The Christmas crackers can be used as gift tags or make a great gift.

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Decorating a Paper Christmas Tree

You will need:

Printable Christmas tree template page 29
Kids PVA craft glue
Pipe cleaners
Coloured pompoms
Metallic confetti
Coloured crayons or pencils

How to make:

1. Print off the Christmas tree template from page 29. You may like to print it onto coloured paper.
2. Using small amounts of glue, attach assortment of crafts to decorate the tree. Pipe cleaners for tinsel, pompoms for baubles and confetti for ornamental decorations.

Tips & Ideas:

- For a larger christmas tree, photo copy the template onto A3 paper.
- We have used left over Christmas wrapping paper from our Collage Placemats to make Christmas presents for under the tree. When the glue has dried, draw on some ribbon with a black marker pen.

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Mini Pipe Cleaner Candy Cane

You will need:

Assortment of coloured pipe cleaners
Scissors

How to make:

1. Cut pipe cleaners in half.
2. Twist and wrap the pipe cleaner around each other to create a stripy pattern.
3. Bend and shape the pipe cleaners into a candy cane shape.
4. Check the ends are folded inwards as these can be sharp.

Tips & Ideas:

- The Mini Pipe Cleaner Candy Canes are a great decoration to attach with a gift tag on gifts.
- They are very cute decoration for the Christmas tree. You don't even need to attach string to them, they loop over the branches.

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Paper Plate Santa Mask

You will need:

Large paper plate
Santa hat: printable template page 35
Red paint
Kids PVA craft glue and sticky tape
Cotton wool balls
Large pop stick paddle
Scissors & black marker pen

How to make?

1. Paint the Santa hat red, leaving the cotton wool areas white. While waiting for the paint to dry, cut out holes for the eyes in the paper plate and draw on a nose.
2. Cut out the Santa hat and sticky tape it to the top of the paper plate. Also sticky tape the large pop stick at the bottom for the handle.
3. Apply glue to the cotton wool areas and shred the cotton with fingers. Apply thinly to the wet glue.

Tips & Ideas:

- Colouring crayons, pencils or marker pens can be used to replace the red paint.

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Paper Plate Reindeer Mask

You will need:

Large paper plate
Reindeer ears: printable template page 34
Brown paint
Sticky tape & scissors
Large red pompom
Large pop stick paddle
Black marker pen

How to make?

1. Paint the paper plate and reindeer ears brown. Allow the paint to dry.
2. Cut out small eye holes in the paper plate and draw on the mouth.
3. Cut out the reindeer ears and sticky tape to the top of the paper plate. Also sticky tape the large pop stick at the bottom of the paper plate.
4. Sticky tape the red pompom for the Reindeer nose.

Tips & Ideas:

- Alternatively you could replace the brown paint for colouring crayons, pencils or textas.

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Moving Paper Plate Santa

You will need:

Large paper plate
Small paper plate
Moving Santa Templates: printable pages 31, 32 and 33
Red and black paint
Split pins
PVA craft glue and sticky tape
Scissors
Cotton wool balls
Black marker pen

How to make?

1. Paint the large paper plate, arms, legs and hat red, leaving the cotton wool areas white. Paint the boots with black paint.
2. While waiting for the paint to dry, draw Santa's face on the small paper plate and glue on the beard.
3. Attach the small paper plate to large paper plate with sticky tape and draw on buttons and a belt.
4. Cut out hat, arms and legs and attach with split pins. Attach the Christmas hat with sticky tape.
5. To finish off, apply glue to remaining cotton wool areas and thinly apply the cotton wool.

Tips & Ideas:

- The split pins enable the legs and arms to move around. Making it a dancing Santa.

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Christmas Dance Streamers

You will need:

Green streamers
Red streamers
Small bell (optional)
String or ribbon
2 large pop sticks
Sticky tape

How to make?

1. Cut two each of the red and green streamers approximately 60cm long.
2. Gather and twist the four ends together and wrap sticky tape around to hold together.
3. Attach to the end of the pop stick with sticky tape.
4. Thread a piece of string through the back of the bell and tie a knot.
5. Attached the string and bell with sticky tape onto the end of the pop stick. Trim off any excess string.

Tips & Ideas:

- Play the kid's favourite Christmas songs and dance away with their Christmas Dance Streamers. So much fun to be had!

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Sock Snowman

You will need:

Green streamers & large red patty pan
6 buttons
Twigs from the garden
Old white sock
Orange pipe cleaner cut to size, 4cms
Stuffing from an old pillow
Black marker pen & an elastic band
Kids PVA craft glue

How to make?

1. Fill the sock with stuffing from an old pillow and separate body and head using an elastic band. Any remaining sock can be folded at the back and held in place with elastic band.
2. Cut two small holes into the sock for the twigs and one for the nose. Thread the twigs and pipe cleaner into place.
3. Wrap a length of streamer around the neck (elastic band) and gently tie a knot.
4. Draw on the dots for a mouth.
5. Glue on the buttons for eyes and down the front of the snowman. Place the patty pan on top for a hat.

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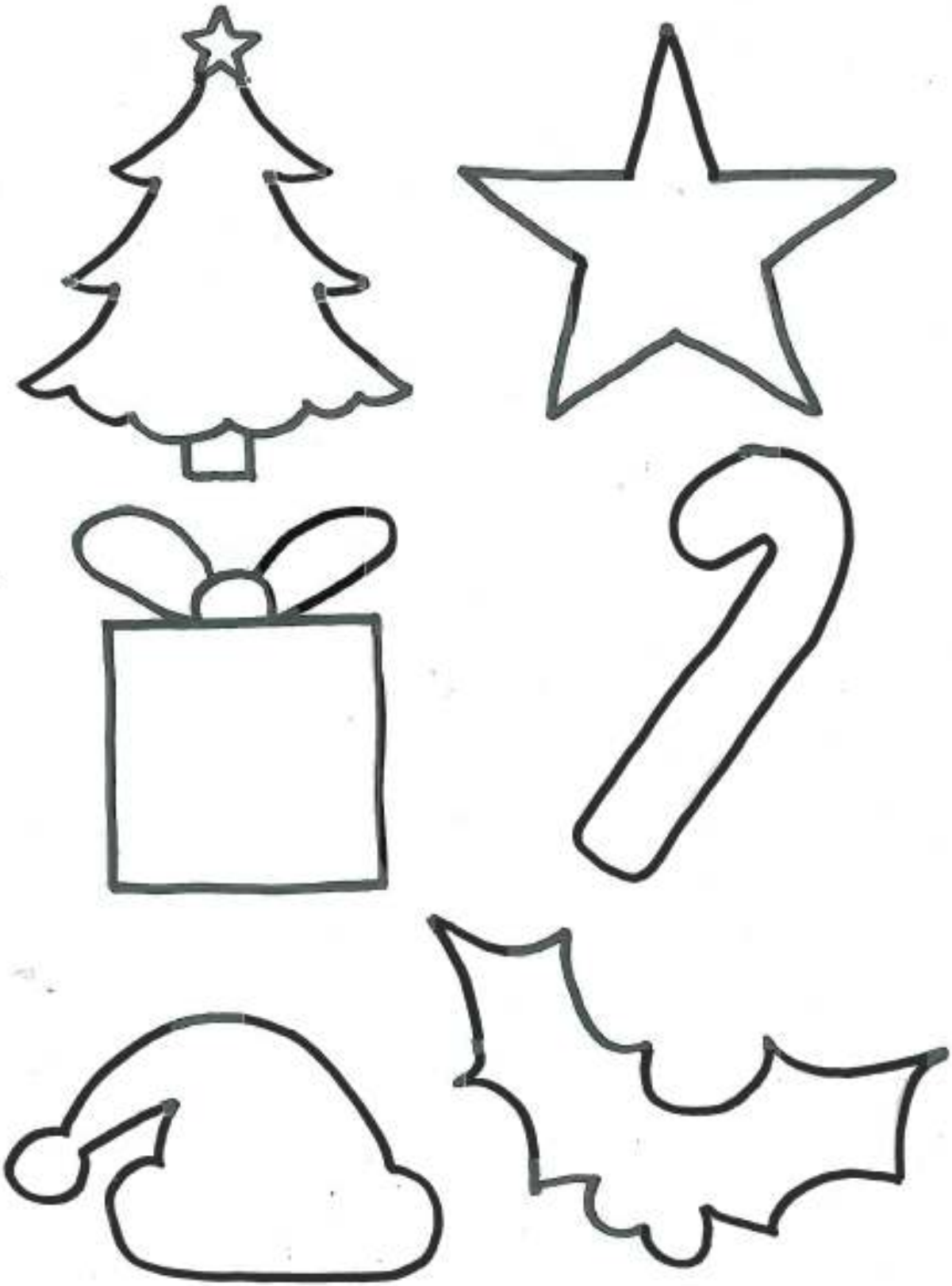
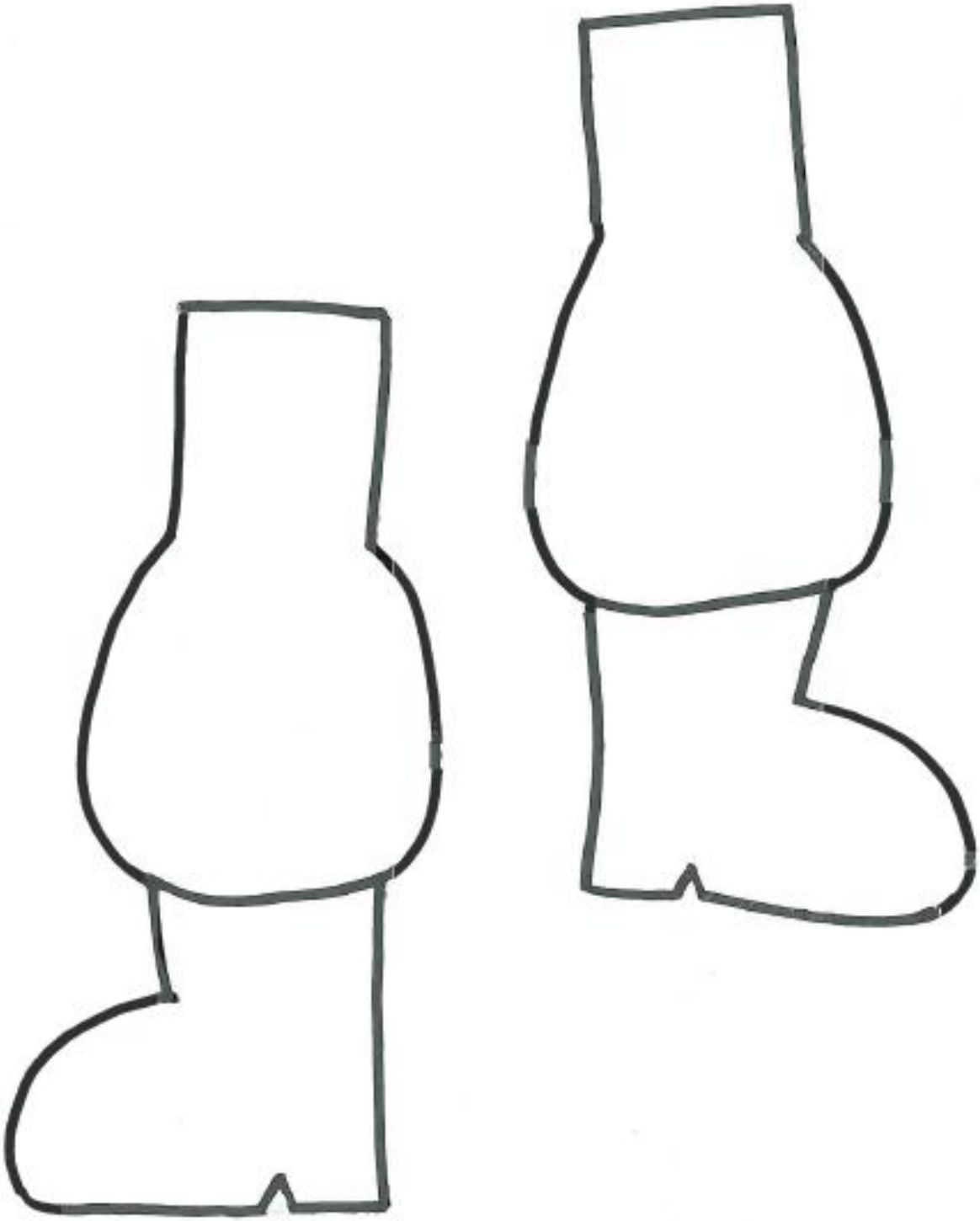


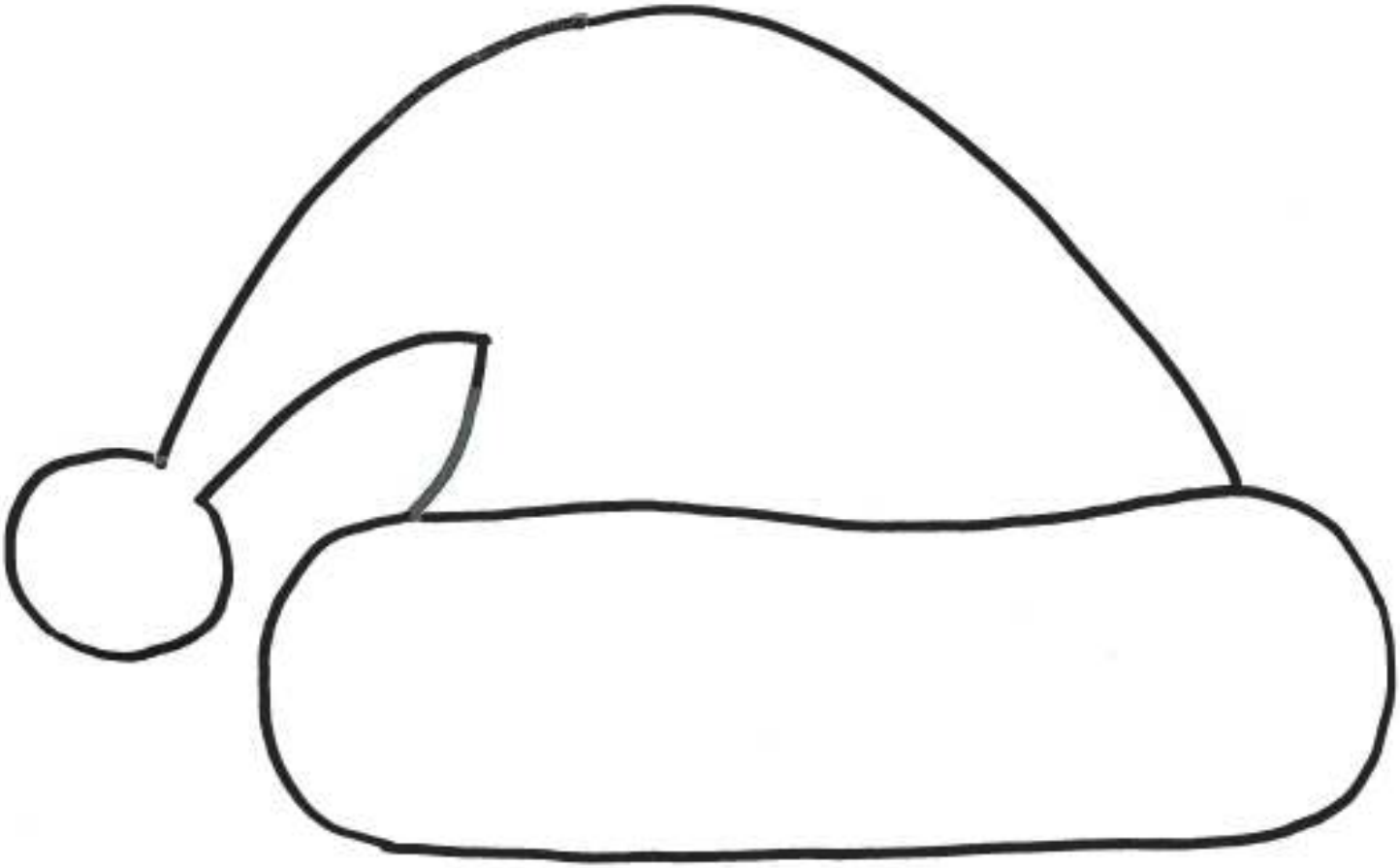
Santa Hat for Moving Santa

Moving Santa - Arms

Moving Santa - Legs



Reindeer Mask



Santa Hat for Santa Mask

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